and (d) gearing up of public grievances redressal system and creation of Local Resistance Groups.

Crimes Against SCs/STs

22. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the National Crime Records bureau the crimes against SCs and STs are alarmingly increased during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details of crimes that have been committed against SCs/STs during the last five years; and

(c) what preventive measures Government are taking or proposed to take, in coordination with the States, to reduce the number of crimes against SCs/STs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) and (b) As per statistics compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau a total of 25638, 25093, 25455, 33501 and 33507 cases of crime against Scheduled Castes and 4276, 4450,4190,6217, and 6774 cases of crime against the Scheduled Tribes were reported during the years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, & 2002 respectively. The unusual increase in the figures of crime against SCs and STs from 2000 to 2001 was largely due to change in the mode of collection of data from monthly to yearly basis. Till 2000 the statistics of crime against SCs and STs was compiled by aggregating monthly figures sent by the States. It was observed that monthly figures sent were under reported due to late receipt of data from the field. The details of crimes against SCs and STs registered during the period 1998-2002 is at Annexure *[See* Appendix 203 Annexure. No. 1]

(c) The Government of India has been advising the State Governments, from time to time, to ensure prevention of atrocities against the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribes. The guidelines issued in this regard include, *inter-alia,* the sensitization of police personnel in

the implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act (PCR), 1955 and the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act (POA), 1989, setting up of special cells to deal with such offences, instructions to the police to have a more empathetic approach while dealing with cases of atrocities against SCs/STs and identification of atrocity prone areas for prevention of crime as well as economic and social rehabilitation of victims of atrocities.

This has resulted in 18 State/UT Administrations having set up Special Cells to deal with offences against SCs and STs. For ensuring early prosecution of cases under POA Act, as many as 137 exclusive Special courts have been set up by the States/Union Territories. 12 States have identified atrocity prone/sensitive areas for taking necessary preventive steps to protect the life and property of the members of the SCs and STs.

Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1980 in Manipur

†23. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what were the main reasons for administering Armed forces (Special Powers) Act, 1980 in the State of Manipur;

(b) whether it is a fact that despite administering this Act, there has been an increase in the insurgency activities by different tribal groups not only in Manipur but in various regions of entire North-Eastern States during the last many years; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Central Government in recent past and details of the success achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The Armed Forces Assam & Manipur (Special Powers) Act, 1958 as amended as The Armed Forces (Assam & Manipur) Special Powers (Amendment) Act, 1972' was promulgated to confer certain special powers upon members of the armed forces to deal with Insurgency situation in the North East.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.